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completed, therefore, requires that its direction should be placed in the hands of a practical astronomer, and we respectfully ask for such legislation as will secure this end."

It is to be hoped that some action in this very important matter will be reached during the present session, and those members of the A. S. P. who are interested can do valuable service by writing to their Senators and Representatives in Congress setting forth the reasons why such action is desirable. E. S. H.

"A METEORIC CRATER.

"FLAGSTAFF (ARIZONA), NOV. 30, 1891.

"G. K. GILBERT and MARCUS BAKER, the former being Chief Geologist of the U. S. Geological Survey, have returned from the Cañon Diablo, where they were sent by the Government to make a map of the region where so much meteoric iron has recently been found.

"They spent sixteen days investigating the mammoth hole in the ground supposed to have been made by a meteor. This hole is 625 feet deep and two and one-eighth miles in circumference.

"The theory is, from the appearance of the walls and from the fact that there have been found many pieces of meteoric iron around the hole, that the meteor penetrated the earth to a depth of 700 or 800 feet before it exploded, and this accounts for the strange phenomenon.

"Three pieces of the meteor, weighing 300, 600 and 850 pounds, respectively, were found on the *mesa* within two miles of the crater and are now in the Smithsonian Institution. Besides these, they found many pieces weighing from two ounces upward.—Telegram to the San Francisco *Examiner*, Tuesday, December 1, 1891.

A BRIGHT METEOR.

NORDHOFF, VENTURA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA,
November 21, 1891.

E. S. HOLDEN, LL. D., *Mt. Hamilton, Cal.*

DEAR SIR: On Wednesday, the 18th inst., at about 10.30 o'clock, P. M., or perhaps a little later, a very strange and unusual phenomenon was noticed by a member of my family and another person, on returning from a concert. A sudden flash of light, which startled the occupants of the buggy, and frightened the horse attached, was seen moving from southwest to northeast, and then became stationary. The position of persons was in a narrow valley about a mile wide and surrounded by mountains; and this magnificent stream of light (which seemed to eclipse the bright moon-light) appeared to cover from one-fourth to one-third of the horizon. There was a nucleus, at first, which gradually disappeared, after which, at the center of this broad blaze of light there seemed to be a fading away, until a blackish-blue stripe was formed, but the outer edges of the light remained plainly visible for one-half to three-fourths of an hour, or while the horse walked slowly three-quarters of a mile. There was no report as in case of the falling meteoric stone. The parties would be ready to answer any queries you might propound. * * *

H. J. DENNISON.

INSTALLATION OF THE NEWALL REFRACTOR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE.

The great telescope presented by Mr. NEWALL to the University of Cambridge, England, was used for the first time at Cambridge early in October, 1891, by Professor J. C. ADAMS, in an examination of the planet *Neptune*.

It is exactly 46 years since Professor ADAMS, then a student at Cambridge, sent his calculations of its position to the Observatory of Greenwich, and it is 45 years since the actual discovery of the planet at the Observatory of Berlin (September 23, 1846).

DR. RUTHERFURD'S NEGATIVES OF THE MOON.

Through the kindness of Professor REES the Lick Observatory collection of copies of Dr. RUTHERFURD'S moon-negatives has been enriched by three examples additional to those named in the *Publications* (vol. iii, page 373), as follows:

1864, November 10, Age 11 days.
1864, November 13. Age 14 days (2 copies).

I understand that Professor REES is making a study of the original negatives in New York with special reference to the history of Dr. KLEIN'S new crater near *Hyginus*. E. S. H.